Downtown Louisville Main Street

1. Chesapeake & Ohio Freight Terminal / Brinly-Hardy Building

103 North Preston Street at East Main Street

This turn-of-the-20th-century railroad freight terminal is a brick adaptation of Romanesque architecture with round-arched openings, stone trim and wide gables. The length of this structure is visually broken by the repetition of openings along its facade. It serves as a significant reminder of the community's agricultural and industrial heritage.

2. Clark Memorial Bridge

Second Street at Ohio River

This steel structure flanked by lighted Art Deco obelisks at its ends served for more than 30 years following its completion in 1929 as the principal thoroughfare between Louisville, Kentucky, and Clarksville, Indiana. In 1949, the bridge was renamed in honor of Gen. George Rogers Clark, founder of those two cities.

3. Belle of Louisville and Mayor Andrew Broaddus

Fourth Street and River Road

These National Historic Landmarks have been recognized for maritime significance. The Belle of Louisville was built in 1914 as the Idlewild by The James Rees & Sons Co. and operated as both a packet and excursion vessel. In 1962 the ship was sold to Jefferson County and continues to be jointly owned with the City of Louisville and operated for excursions.

4. Bank of Louisville / Actors Theatre

320 West Main Street

This National Historic Landmark was constructed in 1837 in the Greek Revival style. It is composed of massive limestone block walls flanking a colossal Ionic-columned portico, according to one historian, reminiscent of "an Archaic Greek treasury, an appropriate symbol for a bank building." The interior space is dominated by colossal Corinthian columns under an elliptical dome. The world-renowned ActorsTheatre is headquartered in this and adjacent facilities.

5. West Main Street Facades

Sixth to Ninth Streets

This collection of elaborate cast iron facades is second in significance only to Soho in New York City. An intricate network of sophisticated structural and decorative members makes these commercial facades unique and truly representative of Louisville's 19th century economic heyday. This collection is serving as the backbone for commercial revitalization adjacent to the riverfront.

6. Ft. Nelson Site and Monument

Northwest corner, Main and Seventh Streets

Constructed in 1781 under the direction of pioneer Richard Chenoweth, this fortification was designed to withstand artillery and was located in what would become the heart of downtown Louisville. This fort was used for less than two decades as additional fortifications were constructed in the region, and the threat of attack had passed.

Market Street

7. First Trust Centre

200 South Fifth Street at Market Street

This 1889 Romanesque commercial building designed by Maury and Dodd is distinguished by its use of both limestone and sandstone. Massive arched openings are repeated in differing scales throughout the facade. Interior features include marble floors and stairs, cast iron railings, wood paneling and brass elevator doors and trim.

8. Levy Brothers / Old Spaghetti Factory

235 West Market Street

This 1893 building stands in strong contrast to both its contemporary and historic neighbors due to the use of reddish-yellow brick and terra cotta by architects Clarke and Loomis. Though echoing the Romanesque influence popular at the time, the use of more delicate details and an unusual treatment of the corner tower attracts attention. The rhythm of storefront windows and openings encourages passersby.